

# Compost Facility General Guidance

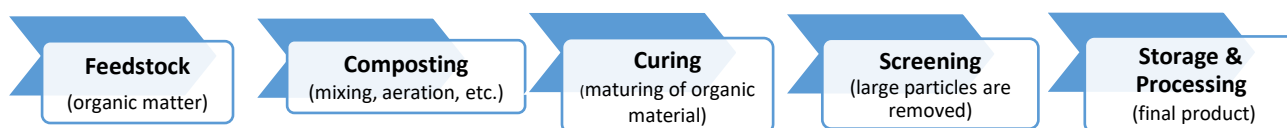
## General

As part of the Saskatchewan Environmental Code, the Compost Facility Chapter outlines the regulatory requirements for establishing, operating and closing a compost facility in Saskatchewan.

The Compost Facilities Acceptable Feedstock and Amendment Standard, which identifies the materials that can be accepted at facilities, is used concurrently with the chapter.

## Composting

Composting is a managed process where organic matter is transformed into compost. This process is divided into five main steps where decomposers, such as bacteria or fungi, produce compost in the presence of oxygen and moisture (Figure 1). Compost helps plant growth and adds stability and fertility to soils. Additionally, diverting organics from landfills reduces methane emissions and extends landfill life.



**Figure 1 – Main steps of composting**

## Application

Table 1 lists activities not covered by the chapter and provides information about other regulatory bodies and legislation for these activities. The table serves as a starting point for seeking further information.

**Table 1 – Activities not regulated in the Compost Facility Chapter**

Type of activity	Regulated mainly by
Backyard composting	Municipal by-laws
Composting of organic materials generated on-site at community gardens	Municipal by-laws
The composting of materials resulting from agricultural operations that are composted on the same property where they are generated	Municipal by-laws Ministry of Agriculture
The composting of materials where all steps of the composting process are completed inside closed vessels surrounded by secondary containment storage	Municipal by-laws
The composting of materials that are regulated by any other Act, regulation or code chapter	Applicable legislation for these other materials

## Types of Compost Facilities

The chapter provides acceptable and alternative solutions for compost facilities. The acceptable solution is the conventional approach and requires compost facility owners to notify the ministry of their plans to continue operations. They can submit the required documents through the Ministry of Environment's online environmental business portal.

Under this chapter, most facilities have two options: they can either follow the acceptable solution or, if some conditions of the acceptable solution cannot be met or if an innovative approach is preferred, they can opt for an alternative solution. Please contact the ministry early if an alternative solution will be followed. Examples of alternative and acceptable solutions are shown below.

- **Acceptable solution**
  - Facilities accepting less than 100 cubic metres (m<sup>3</sup>) of only leaf and yard waste annually (e.g. most compost piles located at a landfill or a transfer station).
  - Compost facilities accepting 100 m<sup>3</sup> or more of either or both feedstock and amendment annually, but less than 15,000 tonnes of either or both feedstock and amendment annually (e.g. facilities accepting food waste or larger leaf and yard waste facilities).
- **Alternative solution**
  - Facilities accepting more than 15,000 tonnes of materials of either or both feedstock and amendment annually.
  - Facilities proposing alternatives or innovative solutions (e.g. facilities proposing a variation in setbacks).

Relevant sections of the chapter for each type of facility are listed in Table 2.

**Table 2 – Requirements for each type of compost facility**

Type of facility	Requirements	Exemptions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compost facilities accepting <u>less than 100 m<sup>3</sup></u> of only leaf and yard waste annually</li> </ul>	Part 1 Section 3-1 Section 3-2	Clause 1-8(1) Clause 1-11(4)(c) Section 3-3 to 3-9, inclusively
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilities accepting more than <u>100 m<sup>3</sup> but less than 15,000 tonnes</u> of either or both feedstock and amendment annually</li> </ul>	Part 1 and either Part 2 or Part 3	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilities accepting more than 15,000 tonnes of materials of either or both feedstock amendment annually</li> <li>• Compost facilities proposing an alternative solution</li> </ul>	Part 1 Part 2	Not applicable

Specific requirements for establishing, operating and closing compost facilities can be found in the Guidance for Compost Facilities Accepting Less Than 100 m<sup>3</sup> of Only Leaf and Yard Waste Annually; in the Guidance for Compost Facilities Following an Acceptable Solution; and in the Guidance for Compost Facilities Following an Alternative Solution.

**Note:** As per 1(5) of the chapter, an owner of a compost facility that is operating a permitted compost facility on the day on which this chapter comes into force is not required to comply with the siting, design and construction requirements set out in the chapter, unless the owner of the compost facility is expanding the compost facility or the operation of the compost facility on this site may cause an adverse environmental effect, but all other requirements apply.

## Resources

[About the Environmental Code](#)

[Environmental online business portal](#)

Guidance for Compost Facilities Accepting Less Than 100 m<sup>3</sup> of Only Leaf and Yard Waste Annually

Guidance for Compost Facilities Following an Acceptable Solution

Guidance for Compost Facilities Following an Alternative Solution

Compost Facilities Acceptable Feedstock and Amendment Standard

[Ministry of Agriculture](#)

[The Environmental Management and Protection Act, 2010](#)

## Contact

If you need assistance, please call the Ministry of Environment's Public Inquiry Centre at 1-800-567-4224 (toll-free in North America) or 306-787-2584. A ministry staff member will connect you with an environmental protection officer.

Web: [saskatchewan.ca/environment](http://saskatchewan.ca/environment)

Email: [Centre.Inquiry@gov.sk.ca](mailto:Centre.Inquiry@gov.sk.ca)